

## Department of Health

### Overview of impacts of 2011-13 Biennial Budget

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This is an overview of some of the significant impacts to Department of Health funding in the 2011-13 budget. None of these decisions are final until the legislative budget is signed by Governor Chris Gregoire.

#### **Environmental Health:**

Local health onsite management grants: Reduces grant funding used by the 12 Puget Sound counties to identify and address onsite sewage system problems in sensitive marine areas. (\$504,000)

Redirect Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA) funding to Pesticide Illness Investigations: A portion of the agency's MTCA funding is redirected to the Pesticide Illness Surveillance program. This will result in reduced epidemiology and outreach effort in program areas such as indoor and outdoor air quality and childhood lead poisoning, as well as reduced drinking water quality evaluation activities. (\$716,000)

Office of Environmental Health, Safety, and Toxicology reductions: Reduces the capacity to support environmental public health protection effort in a number of program areas within this office. This includes reductions in education and prevention activities for zoonotic diseases, water recreation, chemical and pesticide hazards, school environmental health, and food safety. (\$400,500)

Office of Drinking Water reductions: Reduces the capacity within this office to conduct compliance oversight activities of public water systems, and reduces the outreach and technical assistance to public water systems in areas such as cross connection control. (\$670,000)

#### **Epidemiology, Health Statistics, and Public Health Laboratories:**

Health Care Declarations Registry: This reduction eliminates the Health Care Declaration Registry — a statewide electronic system known as the Living Will Registry — that Washington residents can use to store their health care directive documents. New registrations will be discontinued as of June 20, 2011. (\$104,000)

Community Health Assessment: This reduction eliminates training and reduces agency capacity to provide consultation and technical assistance for local health assessment coordinators. This will affect local public health's ability to monitor and analyze indicators needed for community health assessments that are used to guide public health work. (\$170,000)

External Health Professional Training: The public health labs' training program will be reduced, including professional training in public health microbiology and other laboratory related topics to individual health professionals and local health partners. Health professionals will lose professional training opportunities, resulting in reduced knowledge of laboratory-related topics. (\$150,000)

Healthcare Acquired Infections: A portion of the state funding in this program is switched to federal funding that will run out after one year. This will reduce assistance to hospital infection control professionals, validation of the accuracy of infection reporting, and improvements to our Healthcare Acquired Infections website. The result may be increased infection rates or loss of progress toward improving infection control programs. (\$244,000)

**Health Systems Quality Assurance:**

Funding for adverse event reporting from health care facilities is eliminated. As a result we will no longer provide health care facilities with technical and clinical support for reporting adverse events and developing root cause analyses for reportable events. (\$254,000)

Health System Resource Grant Program: This program is eliminated. These were grants were used to support health care projects and recruitment in rural areas of the state. (\$234,000)

Washington Poison Center: Funding to the poison center is reduced by 10 percent. This will result in the center reducing its capacity to take calls from the public and health care providers when a poisoning or harmful drug interaction is suspected. (\$202,000)

Youth Suicide Prevention: Funding for our contracted partner for youth suicide prevention programs is reduced. The budget requires the agency to continue funding this program, but reduced from previous funding levels. (\$170,000)

EMS and Trauma: Funding for rural health and EMS and Trauma program activities is reduced, resulting in significant cut backs in these programs. The specific impact of these cuts is yet to be determined. (\$490,000)

**Community and Family Health:**

Maternity Support Services program oversight: The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) contracts with the Department of Health to provide program oversight for the Maternity Support Services, Infant Case Management, and Childbirth Education components of the First Steps Medicaid program. DSHS is reducing funds for the program to 30 percent of current levels, and will take over the program oversight role. (\$600,000)

Family Planning Grants: Reduced funding that supports family planning services throughout the state. (\$2.25 million)

Maternal and Child Health Program: Funding for the program has been reduced; however, the amount of reduction is different than expected and the impact of this cut is still being analyzed. (\$1.8 million)

Sexually Transmitted Disease Program: Funding reduced by five percent. The impacts of this reduction are unknown and are still being analyzed. (\$54,000)

Women, Infant, and Childrens Program (WIC): All state funding (\$800,000) is eliminated for general WIC services. This program will continue entirely with federal funds. A small amount of funding remains for the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program. It will be reduced over the next two years — \$100,000 reduction in the first year and \$320,000 cut in the second.

Oral Health Program: Funding is transferred to Medicaid Purchasing Administration for the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program. As a result, funding for oral health activities will be reduced. (\$800,000)

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program: There's not enough funding in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Account to support tobacco prevention work. All remaining state funding is eliminated for the quit line, local community support, public awareness, and other tobacco prevention activities. (\$43 million)

### **Overall Dept of Health/Other:**

Local health funding: Blue Ribbon Commission funding (5930) was reduced by 50 percent. This will result in less discretionary funding passed through the Department of Health to support the local public health system. (\$10,000,000).

Central Administration: Specific reductions that have yet to be determined will be made to the central administrative support functions within the agency. (\$1,160,000)

Management efficiencies: Yet to be determined reductions will be made as the result of expected management and administrative reforms. (\$836,000)

Overall employee salary reduction: All agency staff will have a three percent salary reduction (or equivalent). (\$1,332,000) general funds; (\$6,445,000) total funds.